



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tsujimoto et al.
Appl. No.: 09/284,222
Conf. No.: 2037
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Title: NON-AQUEOUS ELECTROLYTE SECONDARY BATTERY
Art Unit: 1745
Examiner: T. Dove
Docket No.: 113184-003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit as follows:

REMARKS

In the Office, Claims 7-9 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. More specifically, claims 7-9 and 12-16 are rejected in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,731,098 ("Suzuki") and Japanese Patent Document No. JP 9-213337 ("Koichiro"); claims 7-9, 12 and 14-16 are rejected in view of *Koichiro* as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,989,743 ("Yamashita"); and claim 13 is rejected in view of *Koichiro* and Japanese Patent Document No. JP 8-195201 ("Abe"). Applicants believe that the obviousness rejections are improper for the reasons set forth below.

Of the pending claims, claim 7 is the sole independent claim. Independent claim 7 recites a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery that includes a positive electrode, a negative electrode and a separator disposed between the positive electrode and the negative electrode to form a laminate structure wherein the laminate structure is wound a number of times around a center portion of the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery. The positive electrode includes a first positive electrode layer, a second positive electrode layer and a positive electrode collector disposed between the first and second positive electrode layers. Likewise, the negative electrode includes a first negative electrode layer and a second negative electrode layer wherein a negative electrode collector is disposed between the first and second negative electrode layers. The